

Fluorosis affected villages

1904. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages and extent of population affected by fluorosis in the country particularly in Rajasthan;
- (b) the details of short term and long term measures taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation in a time-bound manner; and
- (c) the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As reported by the State Governments into the on-line Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on 6.2.2014 there are 14,261 rural habitations in the country wherein one or more drinking water sources are affected with fluoride in the country and yet to be provided with safe drinking water. The total population at risk due to excess fluoride problems in drinking water sources in the rural areas of the country is about 108.76 lakh. Out of this, in Rajasthan State, 6,711 rural habitations are affected with excess fluoride and the population at risk is about 40.5 lakh.

(b) and (c) As short term measure, along with salinity, fluoride contamination is treated by on-site water treatment plants which *inter-alia* include use of Reverse Osmosis technology. As long term, measure to provide safe drinking water to people in water quality affected habitations including fluoride, water supply schemes based on safe surface/ ground water sources is planned and implemented.

Water supply in hilly areas of Uttarakhand

†1905. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated the draft of a plan for such populated hilly areas in Uttarakhand, where gravity flow water supply is difficult;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Ministry would consider it; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the alternative arrangements contemplated by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) As per the information provided by the State Government of Uttarakhand the surface water gravity sources are depleting in the State and for such areas pumping schemes are being formulated from perennial rivers in the State. The major pumping schemes are in Pauri, Tehri and Almora districts.

Drinking Water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. Under the NRDWP, the State Governments are vested with the powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes which includes gravity flow water supply. The Detailed Project Reports of these schemes are prepared by the Rural Water Supply Departments of the State and approved at the State level by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee. Thus the details of schemes approved by the States are not maintained at the central level. State specific plans are also maintained at State level. There is no such plan under consideration with Ministry.

Topography of a State is also one of the criteria taken into consideration while making allocation of funds under NRDWP to States. Under NRDWP guidelines 40% weightage with regard to allocation of funds is given to States under Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Hill Area Development Programme and Special category Hill States.

Sanitation scenario in the country

1906. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the role of sanitation has not been given enough importance in the past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that close to half of households are forced to defecate in the open;

(c) whether just over 10 per cent of India has a toilet with a flush connected to a piped water system; and